

Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (ICVS)
Quarterly Report:
April 1 – June 30, 2014

Personnel Items

- As of April 14, Adam Lounsbury, has been the Executive Director of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service for 11 years.
- Rachel Vastine began a one-year term of AmeriCorps VISTA service with the Iowa Mentoring Partnership on April 21.

Program Updates

- **AmeriCorps VISTA:** ICVS was awarded an AmeriCorps VISTA grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service. A total of nine individuals, plus one VISTA Leader, started or will begin one-year terms of service with the ICVS in April, June, July, and August.
- **Days of Service:**
 - *Mayors Day of Recognition.* The second annual Mayor's Day of Recognition of National Service was held on April 1. Here's an excerpt from an article by CNCS CEO Wendy Spencer: "... Yesterday we made history, as more than 1,760 mayors in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, Guam, and Puerto united in support of national service. Together, these mayors represent more than 110 million Americans, or one-third of the U.S. population. From Austin to Anchorage, and Boston to Tucson, mayors across the country carried a common message: National Service Works for America. Whether thanking AmeriCorps members and Senior Corps volunteers, issuing proclamations, holding press conferences, or using social media, mayors told a powerful story about the impact of AmeriCorps and Senior Corps on tough challenges. These bipartisan mayors recognize that national service is a smart and cost-effective investment, especially at a time of fiscal constraint." [See a list of Iowa mayors who participated.](#)
 - *Senior Corps Week* (May 19-23, 2014). Each year, elected officials and community leaders spotlight the impact of Senior Corps volunteers during Senior Corps Week. Across the country, Senior Corps volunteers were highlighted through service projects and recognition events with elected officials, many of whom issue proclamations that mark the benefits and vital contributions that Senior Corps volunteers provide their communities.
- **Governor's Volunteer Awards.** Nominations were due April 4. During June, Governor Branstad and Lt. Governor Reynolds presented more than 600 awards during regional ceremonies held in Council Bluffs, Storm Lake, Cedar Rapids, Cedar Falls, Pleasant Hill, and Ottumwa. Details and a list of 2014 recipients is online at www.volunteeriowa.org/awards.
- **Iowa Mentoring Partnership (IMP).**
 - Rachel Bruns and Adam Lounsbury met with Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds in early April to discuss recommendations on opportunities for the Lt. Governor to promote STEM youth mentoring in Iowa and nationwide. In addition, opportunities were discussed related to the Lt. Governor visiting Volunteer Iowa's programs, the development to the statewide Employer Volunteer Council, and Service Enterprise Initiative.

- The IMP provider board met on April 30. Using input from programs' monthly updates, long term goals for the IMP and the role of the provider board were discussed. Several openings on the provider board for 2014-15 have been filled.
- During the June ICVS meeting, 31 mentoring programs were approved for recertification by the Iowa Mentoring Partnership and 2 new programs were certified. The certification process is designed to ensure that programs meet the standards defined in the Elements of Effective Practice by MENTOR, the National Mentoring Partnership. These criteria have been shown to increase the likelihood of positive outcomes for mentors and mentees that participate in these programs.
- **Volunteer Hall of Fame.** The 2014 Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame induction ceremony was held in the Capitol Rotunda on April 8 to highlight National Volunteer Week. Several staff members of Iowa's Congressional Delegation and Iowa legislators attended. Governor Branstad presented awards to:
 - Hubbell Realty Company, West Des Moines – Business/Corporation Category (for-profit business providing voluntary service to others through employee volunteer activities).
 - Floyd Hammer and Kathy Hamilton, Union – Family Category (two or more related individuals volunteering together as a unit).
 - The We Care Ladies – members include: Barbara Appleget, Swisher; Vicki Ehrenberger, Cedar Rapids; Glenda Denning, Cedar Rapids; Jean Goodall, Cedar Rapids; Shary Connel, Cedar Rapids – Group Category (several unrelated individuals volunteering together as a unit).
 - Becca Johnson, Dubuque – National Service Category (an individual providing superior service during their term as a national service member to increase the quality of life in one or more Iowa communities).
 - Community!Youth Concepts, Des Moines – Organization/Nonprofit Category (not-for-profit organization providing voluntary service to others).
 - Ron Bell, Mondamin; Vilas "Sid" Morris, Cedar Falls; and Carlos Portes, Marshalltown – Individual Category (one person providing outstanding volunteer service to benefit others):
 - During the month of March, the public was invited to submit online votes for the Volunteer Hall of Fame's People's Choice Award, which is given to one inductee as extra recognition for their contributions as a volunteer. The "polls" closed with more than 5,300 votes received; Carlos Portes was announced as the winner during the April 8 ceremony.
- **Volunteer Iowa website.** ICVS staff now has the ability to manage and update the site. A re-design of the site was launched earlier this year, and in April, a secure section was enabled so commissioners can get meeting materials, contact lists, etc., all in one place.
- **Background Check Stakeholder Group.** The Stakeholder group met on April 30 at the Iowa Department of Public Safety. Stakeholders took a tour of the Division of Criminal Investigation facilities where state criminal records and sex abuse registry files are created and maintained. They also received information from Iowa Department of Human Services staff about the evaluation process that agency uses for reviewing applications for employment in healthcare

and childcare from individuals with criminal or abuse records. The group's May 28 meeting was focused on receiving background information from staff and various presenters and starting activities to help determine the content of the report they must compile for the Governor's Office by the end of September.

- **Governor's Council on National Service in Iowa.**

- Applications to serve on the Governor's Council on National Service were due April 11; appointments were announced May 1. The first Council meeting was held May 19. A membership list and information about the council is online at www.volunteeriowa.org/Home/GovernorsCouncilonNationalService.aspx.
- In April, ICVS staff member Rachel Bruns presented information about Iowa's council to the National Governor's Association in Washington D.C. during a briefing on the "State Role of Expanding National Service" co-convened by America's Service Commissions and the Franklin Project.
- The Governor and Lt. Governor welcomed Council members to their first meeting on May 19. The meeting included a phone conversation with John Bridgeland, co-chair of the Franklin Project, and a brainstorming session. The second meeting was held on June 9 with a focus on setting a framework for moving forward, learning about Service Enterprise Initiative, and demographics/baseline data for Iowa. The Council members plan to support ICVS staff by participating in "consultative meetings" with key state agencies and external organizations to explore opportunities to grow national service.
- ICVS staff member Rachel Bruns attended the Aspen Institute's Franklin Project Summit at Gettysburg June 4-6 as part of her role with America's Service Commissions. Rachel participated in breakout discussions on the topic of the State and Federal Role in Expanding National Service, with many ideas brought back to the Governor's Council. In addition, Shannon Cofield with Drake University attended and brought back ideas for higher education. Doug Hoelscher, Director of the Iowa Office of State-Federal Relations spoke on a panel about the State/Federal Partnerships. In general, the Summit was focused on how to expand national service to 1 million positions to engage all young Americans in national service. More information can be found here: <http://www.aspeninstitute.org/video/opening-ceremony-2014-franklin-project-summit-gettysburg>

- **Volunteer Generation Fund.** ICVS re-released the 2014 VGF Request for Application (RFA), and accepted applications through June 16 for program activities from July 1 – Dec. 31, 2014.
- **AmeriCorps Grants:** National-level competitive AmeriCorps State awards were announced in early May. ICVS was very pleased to have 12 grants selected for funding (7 continuations and 5 new/recompeting grants). [See the full press release here.](#)

- **AmeriCorps 20th Anniversary:**
 - Leading up to the Sept. 12, 2014 nationwide swearing-in ceremony in honor of the 20th anniversary of AmeriCorps, ICVS has been highlighting the stories of outstanding AmeriCorps Alumni from Iowa through social media “20 Alumni for the 20th” articles, which honor members’ dedication to national service and demonstrate the impact that AmeriCorps has had on Iowa. Alumni featured during this quarter include:

• Tara Vélez	• Andy Place
• James Kelly	• Ginny McCalmont
• Emily Shields	• Emily Bormann
• Arin Jones	• Cliff Thompson
• Rose Pollock	• Amanda Martin
• Liz Lidget	• Jasmina Popaja
• Monica Gilkison	
 - Over that past few months, we have been planning the Iowa AmeriCorps 20th Anniversary Ceremony, which will be held Sept. 12 in the State Capitol Building. We expect about 250+ AmeriCorps members, along with other National Service “family members and supporters”. It will be a great day to celebrate and recognize AmeriCorps and volunteerism in the state of Iowa. To learn more about the national AmeriCorps 20th Anniversary, please visit www.nationalservice.gov/ameriCorps20 . For more information about Iowa’s plans, contact Chad Driscoll at chad.driscoll@iowa.gov or 515.725.3074.
- **RSVP Grants.** The RSVP project in Sioux City was discontinued as of May 15. Programs in Dubuque, Clinton, Iowa City, and Ottumwa have hired new directors.
- **Service Enterprise Initiative.** Eight organizations completed the Service Enterprise training as part of our pilot in Cedar Rapids and are now working towards certification. ICVS is working on implementing their Action Plan and building a library of position descriptions to better integrate volunteers into all activities of the organization. For Year Two, ICVS will target potential Service Enterprise Hubs (such as Volunteer Centers of Iowa and RSVP Directors Association) to be participants for a statewide beta pilot. The first year they will go through the process to become a Service Enterprise so the following year they can implement the process for community organizations in their area.

Miscellaneous

- Des Moines Register article, “[Iowa View](#)”, in support of citizen volunteerism and national service written by Tom Latham and Dave Lobesack was published May 12.
- Dora Johnson, Program Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service, was in Iowa June 3-5 for a monitoring visit. She reviewed ICVS AmeriCorps program policies, practices and procedures, AmeriCorps Program member files, and had a chance to meet with a few currently serving members from our Des Moines Public School AmeriCorps Program. Her visit was focused on our AmeriCorps state programs. Initial feedback shows it was a successful and positive visit with very minor comments around continuous improvement activities.